The present collection extends the distribution of *N. monilis* from Nilgiris in the Central Division of the Western Ghats beyond the Palghat Gap to the Anaimalais in the Southern Division. This is of zoogeographical significance as the Palghat Gap forms a dividing line between the Central and Southern Division of the Western Ghats (Bhimachar 1945). Silas (1951), in his paper on the fish fauna of Anaimalai and Nelliamapathi hills and their zoogeographical significance, suggests that the Cauvery and Ponnai watersheds which connect the Central and Southern Divisions are likely to facilitate the dispersal of fishes from north to south.

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26. THE OCCURRENCE OF SPOT PUFFIN IN KALAKAD-MUNDANTHURAI TIGER RESERVE, SOUTHERN WESTERN GHATS

The Spot Puffin *Appias lalage* belonging to the Family Pieridae is found in Northeast Himalayas from Simla, Assam to Burma (=Myanmar) (Wynter-Blyth 1957) and is classified as rare in south India (Sathyamurthy 1966). Its occurrence has not been stated authentically in the Western Ghats. Even Wynter-Blyth (1957) and Larsen (1987 a-c, 1988) do not report it in their exhaustive survey of the Nilgiris. However, there is a lone record of this species from Neterikal in Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) of Agasthyamalai range, in the southern Western Ghats (Sathyamurthy 1966). Ferguson (1891) collected *Hyposcritia lalage* from the Eastern slopes of the Travancore hills. *H. lalage* is a synonym of *Appias lalage* (Talbot 1939). There has been no sighting or collection of this species in recent times.

During a survey conducted from 1990-1996 in the wet evergreen forest, *A. lalage* was encountered frequently. A few vagrants were also seen in the deciduous forests. Besides, it is a common mud-puddler along with 2 sympatric species *A. indra,* and *A. albina* after the monsoon at every corner of the road cutting through the forest. *A. lalage* was more abundant than the

other two species. The females had more extensive black markings than males and were encountered only inside the forest. These were seasonal, emerging in great abundance only during the wet-dry transition period. During 1991 and 1996, there was an explosion in numbers and they were seen mud-puddling in unusual places like vertical rock faces and wherever there was water trickling down.

This species has a disjunct distribution, being restricted to the southern Western Ghats, south of the Palghat Gap and then occurring in the Northeast Himalayas. Scanty records of this species in Western Ghats, South India, are largely due to the lack of adequate survey work. After Ferguson's collection, which was mostly confined to the western slopes, more than a century ago, no detailed study was made in this area. The species appears to be found only in the southern Western Ghats. Intensive field survey over small spatial scale all over the Western Ghats is essential to evaluate the distributional range and present status.

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27. *FICUS HISPIDA* (L.F.): A NEW FOOD PLANT OF THE COMMON MIME *CHILASA CLYTIA DISSIMILIS* AND *CHILASA CLYTIA CLYTIA*

The larva of the Common Mime is known to feed on laurels and cinnamon, *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia, Cinnamomum zeylanicum, Litsea deccanensis, L. sebifera* and *L. chinensis.*

On August 14, 1997, while conducting a nature trail at Tungareshwar, Thane dist., Maharashtra, I came across four caterpillars feeding on a plant which I could not identify at first. The caterpillars were collected and reared on the same plant. All the four caterpillars pupated successfully on August 23, and emerged as adults of the Common Mime *Chilasa clytia dissimilis* on September 8, 1997.

Subsequently in November 1997, I collected two caterpillars of the Common Mime on the same plant at Yewoor, Thane dist. Both these caterpillars pupated successfully and emerged as *Chilasa clytia clytia,* which could be identified by their distinct markings.

The food plant was later identified as *Ficus*